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Borough of



Cheltenham

# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

# Health of Cheltenham

Vital Statistics, Sanitary Work, &c.

FOR THE YEAR

1946

BY

DONALD E. MORLEY, M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Together with the Report of

F. R. JEFFORD, F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

"Sine Qua Non Suprema Lex"

Published by the Council of the Borough



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*"Salus Populi Suprema Lex"*

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# Annual Health Report for the Year 1946

*To His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Cheltenham.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Health of the Borough during 1946 was satisfactory. There was no undue prevalence of any infectious disease nor was there any case of Smallpox or Typhoid Fever.

Diphtheria notifications numbered 20 giving a figure, after correction, of only 15 for the year with no death. This is a much lighter incidence than has been the case for very many years, a result which is without doubt, associated with the high percentage of children immunised in the Borough.

Considerable progress was made during the year in the scheme for the provision of Home Helps, the need for which becomes more and more evident under difficult post-war conditions.

Far reaching changes under the National Health Service Act 1946, are already foreshadowed and the position of Cheltenham as a Health Authority is not yet clear.

The first Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of Cheltenham was written for the year 1874. This report is the 73rd and the 74th report, that for the present year, will be the last, at least under the existing regime.

In conclusion may I as usual take the opportunity of expressing my thanks to the members of the Council for their consideration in the conduct of the work and to the staff for the zeal and loyalty with which they have carried out their duties.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

DONALD E. MORLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

# SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS, 1946.

Area of borough (in acres)—5,146.

Population { Census 1931, Corrected Figure ... 49,418  
 Registrar General's Estimates :  
 Population, Mid year, 1946 ... 60,540

Number of inhabited houses (structurally separate)  
 (Census 1921)—10,928. (Census 1931)—12,272.

Number of inhabited houses (end 1946) according to Rate Books—15,237.

Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921)—11,862.  
 (Census 1931)—13,211.

Rateable value £497,253. Sum represented by a penny rate £2,030.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1946.

		M.	F.	Totals	Rate	
<b>Live Births</b> —Legitimate Illegitimate (Birth Rate Engd. & Wales 16.1)		510	546	1056	Birth Rate per 1000 Civilian population. 19.7	
		77	61	138		
	Totals	587	607	1194	Still Birth Rate per 1000 Live and Still Births 23.7	
	<b>Still Births</b> —Legitimate Illegitimate	12	15	27		
1		1	2			
Totals		13	16	29		
Death Rate Engd. & Wales 11.4	<b>DEATHS</b>	400	486	886	Death Rate per 1000 population 14.6	
Cheltenham deaths from <b>Puerperal</b> Causes					Per 1000 Total Live and Still Births	
					Cheltenham	England & Wales
Puerperal Sepsis ...			1	0.82	0.31	
Other Puerperal Causes ...			0	0.00	1.12	
<b>Totals</b>			1	0.82	1.43	
Deaths of <b>Infants</b> under one year of age.					Rate per 1000 Live Births	
		M	F	Totals	Cheltenham	England & Wales
Legitimate		26	15	41		
Illegitimate.		6	5	11		
<b>Totals</b>		32	20	52	43.5	43

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—147.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)—3.

### Corrected General Death Rate.

The application of the Registrar General's Factor (.82 for Cheltenham) to correct for age and sex distribution gives a corrected death rate of 12.0

**Causes of Death in the Borough of Cheltenham in 1946 as given by the Registrar General. (Total deaths, 886).**

CAUSES OF DEATH							M.	F.
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	486
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2 Cerebro spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
3 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	8
7 Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
8 Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	4
9 Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
10 Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
11 Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
12 Acute infantile encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
13 Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus(m) and uterus (f)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	11
14 Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	8
15 Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	19
16 Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	42
17 Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
18 Intracranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	63
19 Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	118	157
20 Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	9
21 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	14
22 Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	16
23 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6
24 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	8
25 Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
26 Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
27 Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	13
28 Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	19
29 Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
30 Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31 Premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	6
32 Congenital Malformations, birth injury, infant diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	6
33 Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
34 Road Traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
35 Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	10
36 All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	44

Resident Population, 60,540.

**NOTE ON VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1946.**

**Population.**

The population of the Borough as estimated by the Registrar General for Mid-year, 1946, was 60,540, compared with 59,030 and 60,810, for the years 1945 and 1944 respectively.



### **Births.**

The total number of births in the Borough during 1946 was 2,282. This figure includes 69 still births.

The record figure was that for the year 1944 when there were 2,636 births. In that year the number of evacuated mothers was exceptional owing to the flying bomb menace.

The number of births ascribed to permanent residents was 1,223 including 29 still births. This gives a live birth rate of 19.7 per 1000 population. This compares with figures of 19.0 and 20.4 for the years 1945 and 1944 respectively. The rate for England and Wales for year 1946 was 19.1.

### **Illegitimate Births.**

The total number of illegitimate births was 140, a rate of 114 per 1000 total births. This figure compares with rates of 155 and 122 for the previous two years. The rates for 1938 and 1937 were 48 and 65.

### **Death Rate.**

Deaths during 1946 numbered 886 giving a mortality rate per 1000 population of 14.6 compared with 14.5 for the previous year. It is not possible to give a reliable figure corrected for the abnormal age and sex distribution which is associated with the character of such a town as Cheltenham and the Registrar has not yet been able to provide accurate comparability factors on account of the magnitude of local movements during the war. Using, however, the last figure provided .82, the mortality rate would work out at 12.0 compared with 11.5 for the country as a whole and 12.7 for the "Great Towns" in which group Cheltenham is included.

### **Infant Mortality.**

Fifty-two infants under one year of age, born to residents, died during 1946.

The 52 deaths give an Infant mortality rate of 43.5 compared with a rate of 46 for the great towns, including London and Cheltenham and 43 for the country as a whole.

### **Maternal Mortality.**

Deaths of residents from causes associated with child birth numbered one. The death was from sepsis. This gives a total mortality of 0.82 per 1000 births compared with the figure of 1.24 for the country as a whole.

## **WATER SUPPLY.**

The supply of pure water was maintained during the year.

Regular Bacteriological and occasional full Chemical Analyses are made of all sources of supply.

The main supply is from the Severn and purification at the Tewkesbury Works of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Joint Water Board is under the control of a full time qualified Analyst.



The other sources of supply are those from Hewletts and Dowdeswell reservoir and from Sandford Mead Well.

All samples of local supplies taken by the Medical Officer of Health are examined in the Joint Board's Laboratories at Tewkesbury.

All sources of supply are subjected to Chloramine treatment and the gathering grounds are kept under observation for sources of pollution.

### **Analyses.**

During the year 604 analyses were made of samples of water.

The Tewkesbury water is sampled several times a week at seven different points in the process of purification. The finally treated water was the subject of 366 examinations and on no occasion was *Bacillus Coli* found even in 100 c.c. of water. The total bacterial count was always within the limits expected in a water of the highest class.

### **Well Supplies.**

*Action taken in respect of contaminated wells.*

During 1946 samples were taken from wells supplying eleven houses in an area included in the Borough at the last extension of the boundary. Unsatisfactory reports on these samples resulted in the service of notices requiring the owners to lay on a water supply from the Corporation mains.

### **Extension of Supplies.**

The Water Committee has several schemes on hand for the extension of supplies to outlying rural districts. These include supplies to the Leckhampton Hill and Birdlip areas, Little Shurdington and several areas around Tewkesbury. These schemes await the conclusion of negotiations with the War Office and the approval of the Ministry.

### **SPA WATERS.**

Samples of Pittville and Fieldholme were taken monthly and the bacteriological reports showed that a satisfactory standard was maintained. Chlorination of both supplies was continued under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health.

### **MILK (Special Designations) Order, 1936.**

The following licences were issued by Cheltenham Borough Council during 1946 :—

				<i>Type of Licence Issued.</i>		
				<i>Producers</i>	<i>Dealers</i>	<i>Supplementary</i>
A.	Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	—	1	4
B.	Accredited	...	...	—	—	—
C.	Pasteurised	...	...	2	3	—

Licences for production of Tuberculin Tested and Certified Milk are issued by the County Council.

TWO firms hold Licences for pasteurising plants established in the Borough.

Both firms possess plants of the "positive holding" type, but in one case, owing to the increased amount of milk to be dealt with, the plant has been adapted for treatment by the flash process which, at least for the time being, has been recognised officially. The difference in the process is that in the first case the milk is held in a retainer at a temperature of not less than 145°F. and not more than 150°F. for at least 30 minutes, while in the second case, the milk is rapidly brought up to a temperature of approximately 160°F. and held at that temperature for not less than 3 minutes while in continuous flow. In both cases, the milk, after heat treatment, must be immediately cooled to a temperature of not more than 55°F. and must not otherwise be treated by heat and must not be pasteurised more than once.

Samples of the pasteurised supplies are taken monthly for tests as to the efficiency of pasteurisation.

In January, 1946, the prescribed tests were amended by a special regulation to include a phosphatase and a methylene blue test while the requirement for a plate count test was discontinued as it was open to certain misconstructions.

Particulars of the results are sent monthly to the Ministry of Food.

### THE PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES, 1946.

The following statement shows the numbers of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year; the corrections in diagnosis and the final numbers arrived at after deduction of these.

The table includes Cheltenham Borough cases only.

Disease				Cases Notified	Diagnosis Corrections	Final Numbers
Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	54	2	52
Diphtheria	...	...	...	20	5	15
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	25	—	25
Pneumonia	...	...	...	41	—	41
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	2	1	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	14	—	14
Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	3	—	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	2	—	2
Dysentery	...	...	...	2	—	2

## NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A return of notified infectious diseases is sent every week to the Registrar General and a copy of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Since 1944 a quarterly return has also been sent to the Registrar General and in this return corrections of diagnosis are indicated in order to provide a reliable guide as to the extent to which original notifications are withdrawn or amended as the result of later diagnosis.

In the main, corrections are most frequent in the case of Diphtheria. A number of Bacteria produce throat conditions similar to Diphtheria and Diphtheria itself is very variable in appearance. Another and even greater difficulty lies in the fact that infections are frequently mixed so that for this reason alone, mathematical precision in diagnosis is out of the question even after corrections have been made.

The year 1946 provided a very light incidence of notifiable infectious disease and there was only one death, a case of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

The appended table above gives the number of cases notified and the number of corrections of diagnosis. The types of disease were in most cases very mild.

## IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The annual return of figures relating to Diphtheria Immunisation which is required by the Ministry of Health, is set out in a revised form giving the position at the end of 1946.

In order to assist Medical Officers in making this return, the Registrar General provides estimates of the number of children in the Borough in the under 5 group and the 5—14 group. The following is a copy of the Return.

Statement showing number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1946.

Age at 31/12/45 <i>i.e.</i> Born in year	Under 1 1945	1 1944	2 1943	3 1942	4 1941	5-9 1936-1940	10-14 1931-1935	Total under 15
Number Immunised	20	559	595	670	633	3125	2708	8310
Estimated mid- year population 1946	5050					8310		13360

From the figures given above the following percentages are arrived at :

Children under 5 immunised	...	...	49%
Children ages 5 — 14 immunised	...	...	70.2%
Total	...	...	62.3%

These figures do not give a true picture of the actual position (1) because children are not normally immunised before the first birthday so that the number of children in age group 0—1 might reasonably be deducted in making the calculation. (2) Because in both groups a considerable number have been immunised privately.

## Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1946.

Cases			Vision un-impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
2	—	2	2	—	—	—

## REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE DELANCEY FEVER HOSPITAL DURING 1946.

During 1946, 152 cases were admitted compared with 253, 349, 408, 383, 350 and 456 during the previous six years.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Dysentery	Paratyphoid B.	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Meningococcal Meningitis	Pneumococcal Meningitis	Tubercular Meningitis	Polio-myelitis	Polycuritis	German Measles	Mumps	Chickenpox	Glandular Fever	Staphylococcal Pericarditis	Streptococcal Toxaemia	Scabies	Impetigo etc.	Observation (Dentitis etc.)
Cheltenham Borough	43	8	10			2	4	2	1	1		1		9	3		1	1	2	24	
Cheltenham R.D.C.	6	4																	2	1	
Charlton Kings U.D.C.					1																
North Cotswold R.D.C.																					
Cirencester R.D. ...								1												1	
Tewkesbury ....	1																				
H.M. Forces ...	2	1	1										1	2	2	1				7	
Cheltenham College ...			1								1										
Private Patients ...															1					1	
Staff ...																				1	
TOTALS ...	52	13	12	1	1	2	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	11	6	1	1	1	4	35	

The Authorities responsible for the cases were as follows :—

Borough of Cheltenham	...	...	112
Cheltenham Rural District	...	...	13
Charlton Kings Urban District	...	...	1
North Cotswold Rural District	...	...	1
Cirencester R.D.C.	...	...	2
Tewkesbury	...	...	1
H.M. Forces	...	...	17
Cheltenham College	...	...	2
Private Patients	...	...	2
Staff	...	...	1
Total			152



## Deaths.

There were 4 deaths during the year, all of which were in association with cases of somewhat unusual character.

- (i) A case of Tubercular Meningitis admitted in the terminal stages at request of the County Officer, owing to lack of other accommodation.
- (ii) A case of Streptococcal Septicaemia.
- (iii) A case of Staphylococcal Pericarditis associated with a septic throat.
- (iv) A case of Chickenpox complicated by Encephalitis.

## Operations.

Operations under anaesthetics were as follows :—

3.11.46	Double Myringotomy	... Mr. Barker
19.12.46	Tracheotomy	... Mr. Barker

## General Notes.

The cases admitted covered an even wider range than usual and were originally set out under 25 different headings though some cases have been re-grouped in the Statistical Table given in this report.

## Staff.

Shortage of nursing staff towards the close of the year has made itself felt to a most serious extent.

This is due to a variety of causes including the termination of direction under the essential works order, nurses leaving to get married or to take up more remunerative work and lack of applications for training.

The Delancey Hospital suffers in this way in company with many institutions where nurses are required but suffers more seriously on account of out-of-date nurses accommodation and from the fact that the Delancey is not a recognised training school.

Lack of domestic staff is another serious factor and this has its repercussions on the nursing staff who are compelled to carry out unskilled duties not normally expected of them.

The trained staff also is short so that during 1946 Matron had had to stand the share of increasing staffing difficulties on all sides. She and her staff are to be congratulated on the good standard maintained in spite of these difficulties.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

## New Cases and Mortality during 1946.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...								
1—5 years ...		1	1					
5—15 „ ...	3	2	3	7			1	2
15—25 „ ...	8	9	2	2	1	2		
25—35 „ ...	8	12		1	1	3	1	
35—45 „ ...	6	3	1		7			
45—55 „ ...	2	1		1	2			
55—65 „ ...	7	1			6	3		
65 and upwards ...	2				2			1
	36	29	7	11	19	8	2	3
Registrar General's Fig.					19	8	1	5

The Tuberculosis death rates for 1946 were as follows :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.46	} Per 1,000 of Population
Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.09	

## Deaths.

Deaths from Tuberculosis during 1946 numbered 33.

The yearly averages of deaths for the last four, five year periods, 1926-1945, inclusive were 38.2, 35.2, 35.4, 44.6

The 1946 figure compares favourably with these averages and it is the lowest individual figure since 1939. It may therefore be hoped that a new period of improvement has commenced. It must be remembered in connection with the figures for the last 5 or 6 years that a larger population has been involved and therefore the figures for recent years are better than they appear in comparison with pre-war years. The lowest individual figure ever recorded was 27 in 1934.

There is, however, considerable variation from year to year and in 1931 the figure was 54. Figures were much higher during the 1914-18 war and there were 76 deaths from Tuberculosis in 1918. The worst year on record appears to have been 1900 when there were 106 deaths.

A weekly return of new cases is made to the County Medical Officer of Health and each quarter a summary of cases remaining on the register is sent including details relating to names removed on account of death, cure or departure from the town,



### **Treatment.**

The County is the responsible authority for treatment. It is understood institutional provision for Tuberculosis since the war has been considerably limited on account of shortages in staff and this must affect the position adversely.

### **Notification and Disinfection.**

The duties of district authorities including non-County Boroughs, have regard largely to the keeping of a register of cases, the supply of articles for preventing the spread of infection and the general supervision of the housing of infected persons.

Housing has presented insuperable difficulties during recent years and the Medical Officer of Health has limited his recommendations for priority with but few exceptions, to families faced with the problem of a case of Tuberculosis. The Housing Committee has always given special consideration to these recommendations.

Disinfectants, paper handkerchiefs and antiseptic soap are provided free on the recommendation of the County Visitor.

### **NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION.**

At the commencement of 1946 there were 23 Nursing Homes on the Register.

This number includes the maternity ward at the Public Assistance Institution.

During the year two large and important nursing homes closed. The loss was a serious one, particularly as a dozen or more maternity beds had been provided by these two homes. Two small nursing homes also closed and one small one was registered for the first time.

At the commencement of 1947 there were 20 nursing homes on the register providing a total of 233 beds including 133 Maternity beds and 100 beds for other cases.

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### MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES, 1946.

Number of Midwives in the area of the Local Supervising Authority and number of cases attended by them during the year and the capacity in which they attended.

Nature of Employment of Midwives	No. of Midwives practising at end of 1946			CASES ATTENDED			
	Domi- ciliary	In Insti- tution	Totals	Location and Number			
				Capacity in which Midwives acted	In Own Home	In Insti- tution	Totals
(A) Employed in Institutions by Gloucestershire C.C.	-	20	20	As Midwives As Maternity Nurses	- -	1082 12	1082 12
(B) Employed by Voluntary Associations (Victoria Home)							
(i) Under arrangements made in pursuance of Section 1 of the Midwives Act 1936	5	-	5	As Midwives As Maternity Nurses	257 57	-	257 57
(ii) Under private arrangements	-	5	5	As Midwives As Maternity Nurses	- -	135 17	135 17
* (C) In private practice	4	11	15	As Midwives As Maternity Nurses	52 57	35 576	87 633
Totals	9	36	45	As Midwives As Maternity Nurses	309 114	1252 605	1561 719
	45			Combined Totals	423	1857	2280

Estimated Number of Domiciliary Births during the year in the area of the Local Supervising Authority ... ..

408

\* Classified according to normal practice. Some of these Midwives attend cases under both headings.

#### Total Number of Births.

During 1946 there were 2,213 live and 69 still births in this Borough making a total of 2,282 births. Out of these 918 were born in the large County Maternity Home, Sunnyside. Only 408 births took place in the home of the parent.

#### Maternal Deaths.

There were 8 deaths associated with pregnancy: in one case the pregnancy was only an associated cause. Of the other 7 cases, only one was a Cheltenham case.

## MATERNITY ACCOMMODATION.

The number of maternity cases provided with Institutional accommodation at a charge assessed according to income, by the Cheltenham Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, during 1946 was 439, compared with 291, 275 and 285 for the previous three years. Of these 439 cases, 152 were accommodated at the Victoria Home and 287 at Sunnyside Maternity Hospital.

The numbers seeking accommodation increased rapidly towards the close of the year and in the early part of 1947 Sunnyside bookings reached a figure of over 40 a month. A similar and increased demand was made from other parts of the county and accommodation for Borough cases was suddenly cut to 30 a month.

Admissions are very strictly limited at the moment, to complicated cases and those whose home conditions are unsuitable for confinement. A special visit is paid by the district Health Visitor in all cases of doubt. A Home Help is provided when such an alternative is a solution to the problem by making possible a confinement at home.

The policy was continued, of allowing the mothers the choice of the Victoria Home or Sunnyside but directing those with no preference to the Victoria Home, until that accommodation was fully booked.

A statement of the cost of Maternity Accommodation at Sunnyside is not yet available as accounts are nearly always received at least six months after the period to which they relate but a very great increase in the cost is inevitable. The accommodation at the Victoria Home is always more or less fully booked, but Sunnyside has always been looked to to provide for the remaining cases and in the latter half of 1946 there was a very heavy increase in bookings. A further heavy addition to the cost is associated with the increase in charge from £5 5s. 0d. to £7 7s. 0d. a week resulting from the increased cost of running the Home.

The cost to the Corporation has been increased in a few cases by failure of patients to meet the assessed fee. A deposit of half the fortnight's fee is now required, but prolonged residence in the home resulting from complications not infrequently results in an unpaid account.

The cost to the Corporation of Maternity accommodation including Ante-Natal beds in the Victoria Home during 1946 was £1,059 15s. 0d. nearly £200 less than the previous year. This is mainly accounted for by the fact that rather fewer patients were accommodated and because about £100 more was received as contributions from patients towards the cost of accommodation.

Owing to the heavy increase in demand for maternity accommodation the Matron has been asked to increase the number of bookings and, when necessary, in suitable cases, to reduce the period of residence somewhat, in order to meet the situation.

## INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES

## 1. Notices received from Midwives.

The following is a summary of the special notices received from midwives during 1946—

Notification of Still Births	...	...	...	10
„ Death of Infant	...	...	...	12
„ Death of Mother	...	...	...	8
„ Artificial Feeding being adopted	...	...	...	4
„ Liability to be a Source of Infection	...	...	...	
„ Having laid out of dead body	...	...	...	
Total number of Notices received				34

## 2. Number of Cases in which Medical Aid was summoned during the year under Section 14 (1) of the Midwives Act 1918, by a Midwife.

(i) In domiciliary practice	...	...	166	} Total 243
(ii) In Institutional practice	...	...	77	

The following is an analysis of the reasons necessitating the calls for the assistance of a Doctor.

(a) Conditions arising before Labour	{ Albuminuria	...	...	8
	{ Other Conditions	...	...	59
(b) Miscarriage, Abortion and Premature Labour	...	...	...	6
(c) Conditions arising during Labour	{ Perineal Injuries	...	...	86
	{ Delayed Labour	...	...	19
	{ Abnormal Presentations	...	...	12
	{ Abnormal Haemorrhage	...	...	1
	{ Retained Products of Conception	...	...	3
(d) Conditions arising after Labour	{ Other conditions	...	...	6
	{ Rise of Temperature	...	...	19
(e) Condition of the Infant	{ Other conditions	...	...	25
	{ Feebleness or Prematurity	...	...	7
	{ Inflamed Eyes	...	...	10
	{ Deformities	...	...	3
	{ Other conditions	...	...	11
Total				275

## Doctors' Fees under the Midwives Acts.

Total amount of fees paid to Doctors during the period		£	s.	d.
April 1st, 1946, to March 31st, 1947	...	105	1	6
Amount rechargeable to Patients under the Income Scale		45	11	6



## GYNAECOLOGICAL CLINIC

This Clinic, which was opened in 1938, is mainly intended for Birth Control work. Help is only given to Mothers whose health is such as to render further pregnancy undesirable.

Where patients are able to pay, a fee of 10/6 is charged for the first visit; the second visit within six months is free and subsequent visits are charged at 2/6.

During 1946, twenty-six clinics were held. New cases attending included 27 Borough and 5 County Patients.

Total attendances at the Clinic numbered 160.

## THE MATERNITY WORK OF THE VICTORIA HOME. STATISTICS FOR 1946.

### 1. Ward Cases.

		<i>Midwifery Cases</i>	<i>Maternity Cases</i>	<i>Ante-Natal Cases</i>
Borough Cases	180 comprising	135	17	28
County cases	— „	—	—	—
Totals	180	135	17	28

The average duration of stay in hospital of the cases admitted to the wards for confinement was fourteen days.

The number of calls for medical aid arising from the 135 midwifery cases attended in the ward was 93 or 69%.

### 2. District Cases.

Midwifery	...	...	...	...	257
Maternity	...	...	...	...	57
Total	...	...	...	...	314

These figures show the work of the "Domiciliary" Service provided under the Midwives' Act, 1936, by the Home, in conjunction with the Borough Council. Five midwives are engaged solely on this work, and they therefore had an average of 63 cases each, which is a satisfactory number. Medical assistance was called for on 132 occasions, that is in 42% of the cases.

### 3. Ante-natal Clinic and Post-natal Clinic.

These Clinics are held at the Victoria Home as follows :—General Clinic—at which a Doctor attends, Thursday at 11 a.m.

The midwives of the Home, also hold Ante-natal Clinics ; (1) for district cases on Wednesday and Thursday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (2) for ward cases Monday and Wednesday from 10 o'clock onwards.

During 1945, 321 mothers attended for Ante-natal and 120 for Post natal and advice.

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### HOME HELP SERVICE.

The Home Help Service has now become a substantial addition to the Social Services provided by the Borough.

In October, 1945, a whole time Organiser was appointed to manage the Service and to enlarge the service, by enlisting helps without restriction other than the limit set by a legitimate demand for assistance.

The service of a half-time clerical assistant was also provided.

During 1946 the total number of hours worked was 17,370 comprising 10,183 hours devoted to Domestic cases, 5,640 hours to Maternity and Child Welfare Cases, and 1,547 hours to assistance in the Corporation Nurseries.

A total of 226 cases, including 117 Domestic and 109 Maternity and Child Welfare Cases, were assisted, many for long periods.

During the year an average of 10 Home Helps were working on the service. In addition 24 cases were assisted through the "Neighbourly Service."

Appeals were received through various Associations and several Doctors appealed on behalf of patients.

The growth of the work will be realised from a comparison of the hours worked which were 17,370 during 1946, and only 2,264 during 1945.

The Organiser and her Secretary who acts as Deputy in the absence of the Organiser, are to be congratulated on the extent and efficiency of the Service.

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**INFANT WELFARE.****Work of Health Visitors, January 1st—December 31st, 1946.**

No. of Children on Register	...	...	...	...	...	5841
„ Un-notified Live Births discovered	...	...	...	...	...	47
„ Un-notified Still Births discovered	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ Home Visits paid by Health Visitors (a) 1 year and under	...	...	...	...	...	7260
„ „ „ „ (b) over 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	8800
„ Special visits to Mothers (Ante natal cases 502)	...	...	...	...	...	818
„ First Visits paid by Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	...	1162
„ Chicken-pox cases visited	...	...	...	...	...	50
„ Measles cases visited	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ German Measles	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ Whooping-cough cases visited	...	...	...	...	...	78
„ Mumps cases visited	...	...	...	...	...	19
„ Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases visited	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ Pemphigus	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Attendances of Health Visitors at Centres	...	...	...	...	...	345
„ Cases reported to N.S.P.C.C.	...	...	...	...	...	4

**Dental Treatment of Nursing and Expectant Mothers and Children under 5.**

The following table shows the work done by the School Dentist for the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee during 1946.

				<i>Saturday Morning &amp; Thursday Evening</i>		
				<i>Mothers</i>	<i>Infants</i>	<i>Nursery Probationers</i>
Attendances	...	...	...	883	69	6
Extractions	...	...	...	240	—	—
Extractions (under gas)	...	...	...	768	40	—
Fillings	...	...	...	64	4	5
Attendances for other treatment, impressions, fitting dentures, etc.	...	...	...	471	34	4
No. of sessions held during 1946	...	...	...	71	1	1

Total number of dentures provided during 1946 46

Number of cases receiving assistance in payment ... —

**Special Cases.**

In order to meet the difficulty presented by younger children needing multiple extractions and requiring a period for recovery, one or two sessions are held each term at the Children's Hospital.

The following is a summary of this work :—

No. of sessions	...	...	...	7
No. of children treated	...	...	...	33
No. of teeth extracted	...	...	...	88

### CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The following figures show the extent of the year's work under Sections 206-220 P.H. Act. 1936.

Number of visits by Health Visitors	...	...	...	261
Number of visits by School Nurses	...	...	...	45
Number of individual children on the register at the end of the year				88
Number of children who died during the year	...	...		—
Number of Foster Mothers on the register at the end of the year				31

The visits are made by the Health Visitors in the case of children under 5 and by the School Nurses where children between the ages of 5 and 9 are concerned.

### CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

From the 1st January, 1945, birth notification cards included a record of the weight at birth. Out of 2,213 live births, 78 infants weighed 5½ lbs. or less. Although by no means an accurate index of prematurity, this weight is taken as the dividing line and the 78 children are considered to be premature. Of these, 29 were born at home and 20 of them survived at the end of the month. Of the 49 born in hospital, 37 survived at the end of the month.

Certain special measures have been adopted and equipment has been provided to assist towards the extra care required by premature infants.

The Victoria Home Midwives notify the Health Visitors in these cases when an early visit is considered desirable.

### CHELTENHAM INFANT WELFARE ASSOCIATION

#### Thirty-Eighth Annual Report.

April 1st, 1946 — March 31st, 1947.

Thanks are due to Mrs. Lock Mellersh, President of the Association, for permission to include this report.

#### MEETINGS OF INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

For Babies and Children up to Five Years.

At Highbury Congregational Church, every Tuesday	...	2.30
At Bethesda Sunday School, every Wednesday	... ..	2.30
(Great Norwood Street).		
At St. Mark's every Wednesday	... ..	2.30
Methodist Sunday School, Gloucester Road.		
At Baker Street Institute, every Thursday	- ... ..	2.30
At St. Michael's Hall, Whaddon, every Thursday	...	2.30

#### ATTENDANCE AT CENTRES.

		Infants	Toddlers	
Attendances at Highbury	(46 meetings)	2040	1037	3077
Attendances at Bethesda	(46 meetings)	1709	937	2646
Attendances at St. Mark's	(45 meetings)	1867	863	2730
Attendances at Baker Street	(46 meetings)	1523	746	2269
Attendances at St. Michael's Hall	(46 meetings)	1744	771	2515

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13237

**Weekly Toddler Inspections.**

36 meetings ; 211 attendances.

Number of individual Children attending the four centres :—

Highbury, 391 ; Bethesda, 387 ; Baker Street, 334 ; St. Marks, 382.

St. Michael's Hall, 334 ...	...	...	...	...	...	1828
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Visits paid by Visitor (since April 1st, 1946)	...	...	...	...	...	1314
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**NOTE ON THE WORK.**

**April 1st, 1946, to March 31st, 1947.**

Up to the end of 1946 the work at the Centres was carried on normally, but during the fuel crisis at the beginning of 1947 many difficulties were encountered. At three of the Centres there was no central heating, and for several weeks the work had to be carried on in the small rooms, which were fitted with gas or electric fires. The Toddlers' Clinic had to be cancelled for eight weeks ; this was most unfortunate as this Clinic continues to grow in popularity with those Mothers who fully realize the value of a thorough expert examination of their children. The Committee wish to put on record their very great appreciation of the gallant way the voluntary helpers, throughout all these intensely difficult weeks, continued so loyally to attend in spite of inconveniences and intense cold.

The Committee regret to have to report the resignation of three of their members. During the eleven years he has held the post of Hon. Treasurer, Mr. E. W. Garland, has put in much strenuous work of which the Committee are deeply appreciative and regret that owing to ill health he can no longer continue. He will be very difficult to replace. Mrs. Gurney one of the pioneers in Maternity and Child Welfare work in the Town, and an early Committee member, has now had to sever her connection with the work ; much is owed to her for all she did in the early days of the Association. Miss Pratt who has been a most valued member of the Committee since 1930 has also had to resign. Grateful thanks are due to all three. Miss T. Martin has been elected to the Committee.

Mr. Harvey also resigned his post as Medical Officer at the Whaddon Centre, and Dr. Bruce Wallace, who acted there for him during his absence on war service, was appointed permanently. Another resignation which the Committee have received with regret is that of Sir Eric Stuart Taylor from the Baker Street Centre, where he had been Medical Officer for fourteen years. His personal interest in all connected with the Centre will be very much missed. Dr. G. B. Matthews has been appointed in his place.

Two Diphtheria immunisation clinics were held at the Whaddon Centre during the early part of the summer, when over 100 children completed their course of injections.

The Committee welcomed the decision of the Post Master General to allow stamps to be made available to Mothers who obtain their orange juice and national dried milk at the Infant Welfare Centres.

Miss C. M. Martin was appointed by the Committee at the end of June, as Assistant at the Centres. Unfortunately she was forced to resign in September owing to her departure from Cheltenham to take up other work. Miss Nancy Wethey has been appointed in her place.

One Mother and her baby were sent to the Church Army Holiday Home at Weston-super-Mare in November, she derived great benefit from her holiday.

A welcome gift of 240 lbs. of sweetened chocolate and milk powder has been received from the Kinsmen's Club of Toronto for distribution to the Mothers attending the Centres.

Miss Latham resigned her post as Health Visitor at the end of July and was succeeded by Miss Tatlow in October. At this time some re-organisation of the districts took place.



## Cash Account, April 1st, 1946—March 31st, 1947.

[illegible]

### Sale of Needlework Account.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance in hand April 1, 1946	38	19	6	Balance in Building Society, 31 March, 1947	49	10	10
Interest		11	4				
Sale of Garments	10	0	0				
	£49	10	10		£49	10	10

### Social Activity Fund.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance in hand, April, 1 1946	125	11	5	Donation to Nat: Council of Women	1	1	0
Part of Holiday Grant		17	6	Holiday Grant	3	5	0
Interest	3	2	8	Balance in hand	125	5	7
	£129	11	7		£129	11	7

We have examined the above Account with the Books, Vouchers and Counterfoil-receipts of the Association and certify that it is in accordance therewith.

London, 28th May 1947.

E. W. GARLAND, Hon. Treasurer, 2nd May, 1947.

WENHAM EDGE & CO.

Chartered Accountants.



## DAY AND RESIDENTIAL NURSERIES.

### Day Nurseries.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee maintains three Day Nurseries.

The attendance of children did not fall with the end of hostilities. The continuing demand for accommodation is explained in the following summary of a statement which was put before the Committee early in 1946 by the Supervising Matron.

(1) *Home Conditions.*

Families living under restricted conditions in flats, furnished rooms, with relatives etc.

(2) *Unmarried Mothers.*

The mother the sole support of herself and her child and so compelled to work.

(3) *Insufficient Income* to maintain the family due to illness, etc. Mother compelled to work.

(4) *Unsuitable Mothers.*

(a) Mothers lacking maternal instinct but of superior intellect and more suited to professional occupation.

(b) Mothers of inferior intelligence unable to run a home decently.

The main difficulty in running the Nurseries during 1946 was the maintenance of a sufficient staff. At times this difficulty was almost insuperable, and during the holiday period it was necessary to close the nurseries for varying periods.

The Supervising Matron and her staff must be congratulated on keeping the nurseries running so efficiently under such difficulties.

### Residential Nursery — Thirlestaine Court.

Thirlestaine Court was purchased during 1946 in order that it could continue to serve the town as a Residential Nursery.

Staffing difficulties were, as in the case of the day nurseries, the predominant feature during the year and admissions on this account have had to be curtailed at times. In spite of this, the nursery has served a most useful purpose and is an essential unit in the services of the town.

The Matron is to be congratulated on the excellence of the service maintained at times, under great difficulties.

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## ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

This Clinic provides for school children as well as children under school age.

The attendances are kept separate and the fees due to the Cheltenham General Hospital and to the Orthopaedic Surgeon and Nurse are paid in proportion to the attendances.

The figures given in this report refer to children under school age only, unless otherwise stated.

A quarterly report is made to each Committee.

## Summary of Work done during the Year and Analysis of Cases Treated.

### Number of Cases on the Register (under School Age).

	<i>No. of Cases</i>
On the Register, 1st January, 1946 ... ..	76
Removed (Non attendance, transfers to County, School Section, etc.)	—
New cases during the year ... ..	102
Remaining on the Register, 1st January, 1947 ... ..	73

### Summary of Conditions requiring Treatment in 73 Cases remaining on the Register at the end of 1946.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>On Register 1st Jan., 1947.</i>
Flat Feet ... ..	26
Knock Knees ... ..	31
Bow Legs ... ..	8
Talipes Equino Varus ... ..	4
Torticollis ... ..	—
Miscellaneous ... ..	4
A.P.M. ... ..	—
Total ... ..	73

## ANNUAL REPORT of the CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR for the Year 1946.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of  
the Borough of Cheltenham.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my report of the administration of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Department for the year 1946. It was in the year 1906 that I was appointed to the staff of the Health Department and I have occupied the present position for nearly 19 years.

Long service is marked in the department, my Deputy, Mr. C. W. Clifford, with 36 years service to his credit, retired during the year. He has left his mark in the town by the high standard of plumbing and sanitary work generally which came under his direction and supervision. The Council appointed Mr. J. F. Ursell, M.R.S.I., M.I.San.E., who has been connected with the department for many years, to the vacant position of Deputy Chief Inspector.

With the return of some members of the staff, namely Messrs. J. F. Ursell, A. L. Jones and H. E. Clapp, from war service, the department was reorganised, and the opportunity was taken to bring the office machinery and administration up to an efficient standard. This report does not, therefore, represent by statistics, a normal year's routine work.

I am pleased to place on record the enthusiasm and keen interest shown by the returned service officials in taking over their duties and the support given me by the whole staff throughout the year.

Cheltenham's population, having increased by 10,000 in recent years, has been reflected in the acute housing conditions generally which are the cause of many complaints to this office.

The licensing of food shops and catering establishments by the Ministry of Food has introduced an appreciable amount of additional work and the demands made upon the inspectional staff on housing, licensing and orders of Government Departments, preclude the carrying out of many duties which are essential in environmental health.

At the time of writing this report, I have just read a circular of the Ministry of Health on the reduction of Local Authority Staffs. Sanitary Officers view with concern, the arrears of work that have accrued during the war period. Their many responsibilities, not only to their Councils but to the communities they serve have rendered such arrears inevitable. Every similar department in the country will be experiencing the difficulties caused by deteriorating houses, the complaints of owners and occupiers and the increased demands upon such departments by legislature. It is obvious that even more staff and not less will be required if this section of the health service is to be raised to and maintained at the requisite higher level.

I wish to take this opportunity of recording my thanks to the Public Health and other Committees of the Council, also to express appreciation to the other chief officers and their staffs for their co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. R. JEFFORD,

F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.

### **Drainage and Sewage Disposal.**

It has been the aim in this District for many years to achieve a high standard of sanitary work in cases where a Corporation Sanitary Certificate was granted, but with the acute shortage of approved material, it has unfortunately been impossible to maintain this standard and no certificates have been granted during the year 1946.

During the year 1,513 visits were made in connection with drainage work and alterations to plumbing systems. These were primarily in connection with flat conversions of large houses where all new drains were water tested and the soil and vent shafts together with the necessary anti-syphon connections subjected to the smoke tests.

Interviews and appointments with builders, owners and agents in connection with these and other matters relating to internal sanitation, numbered 749.

### **Sewage Disposal Schemes for Farms and Isolated Buildings.**

The supervision of existing individual sewage disposal schemes continued during the year, notices being sent when septic and sludge tanks required cleansing and unsatisfactory effluents were being passed. Samples of these effluents were periodically taken to ensure that the standard laid down by the Rivers Pollution Commission was maintained and that streams were not polluted.

Plans and specifications were prepared for the entire reconstruction of the drainage system and disposal scheme at an outlying dairy farm.

Trade effluents were the subject of a detailed investigation ; special pre-treatment often being necessary, before discharging into streams or brooks. Samples of the effluents, prior to and after pre-treatment were taken for analysis.

## **HOUSING.**

### **General Repair of Unfit Houses.**

There has been a great increase in the number of Statutory Notices issued for the repair of unfit houses capable of being dealt with at reasonable cost. In keeping with the policy advocated by the Ministry of Health, only the most urgent of repairs have been dealt with and arrangements have been made with the Building Department for licences to be issued on production of these Notices.

There is no doubt that the acute shortage of materials is a major obstruction in the execution of even essential repair work within a reasonable time. In many cases where undue delay has occurred, details of the materials required have been obtained and sent to the Regional Materials Officer, who has co-operated and assisted in the production of these items.

The Council has, during the year, purchased several properties which were not capable of repair at reasonable cost and which the Owner did not wish to put in a satisfactory state for habitation. Specification of works were prepared and reconditioning carried out with a view to providing accommodation for 2 to 5 years.



### **Underground Rooms and Cellar Dwellings.**

The continued acute shortage of housing accommodation was accentuated still further by the return of members of the Forces. This has resulted in many underground rooms, completely unfit for human habitation, being used as dwellings. Whilst this Local Authority fully appreciates the difficult situation, it has been compelled to close these underground rooms when the occupants have been re-housed, to prevent further re-occupation by persons wishing to be placed on the priority list of the Housing Department for a new dwelling. Several cases of re-occupation have occurred after the original tenants have been re-housed and when closure had taken place. The second family had also to be found accommodation.

During the year, 31 underground rooms were represented under the Housing Act, 1936, as unfit for human habitation; 14 of these were closed for sleeping purposes; one undertaking was accepted to carry out the requisite work to render fit; and the remaining sixteen were closed early in 1947.

Special attention has been directed to the cellar type dwelling in the prevailing housing shortage. Close co-operation has been maintained with the Housing Department and when the applicants claim for re-housing is considered, and the accommodation complained of is a basement, it is usual for this Department to provide a sanitary report on the premises for the information of the Housing and Public Health Committees; this enables a selection to be made only from the most urgent cases and results in the ultimate closure of such basements.

### **Common Lodging Houses.**

Accommodation for over 50 men has proved to be inadequate. This is due to the dearth of working class lodgings either in hostels or private households. Examinations of the register show a large number of lodgers to be labourers, engaged on building sites and construction work, etc., using the lodging houses permanently.

The expression "common lodging house" defined in the Public Health Act, 1936, means a house provided for the purpose of accommodating by night, poor persons. Lodgers in regular employment are not "poor persons" within the meaning of the Act, but as stated it is extremely difficult for them to secure alternative accommodation.

In the early part of the year, a number of lodgers were stricken with influenza—six confined to bed—normally such cases would be removed to the County Infirmary, but during this period no beds were available owing to the shortage of nursing staff. The patients had, therefore, to rely on fellow lodgers and others for obtaining and preparing their food.

The premises are regularly sprayed with D.D.T. by the Keeper with entirely satisfactory results. Tests were carried out with a smoke generator insecticide, the main disadvantage was the need for leaving the impregnated dust for sufficiently long periods.

It has been found that larger quantities of bedding and mattresses are now available for replacements and a reserve stock has been accumulated.

## LICENSED PREMISES.

### Hotels and Public Houses.

A survey of the licenced houses in the Borough has commenced. In the cases set out below, Statutory Notices were served requiring provision of adequate and separate sanitary accommodation for both sexes frequenting these premises.

The provision of new W.C. apartments and washing facilities has been enforced, the Department working in close co-operation with the Licensing Authorities.

It is intended to complete the Survey during 1947, and when adequate building material is available to extend the standard required by the Public Health Act to those houses that fall short of such requirements.

Under present conditions of supply of such material, some delay can be anticipated as many of the buildings require structural alterations.

### Public Health Act, 1936. Section 89.

New W.C. apartments	Male, 9.	Female, 9
Urinals	...	10
Washing facilities	...	8

### Factories and Workshops.

The spraying of cellulose at a small factory in a built-up area gave rise to many complaints of obnoxious odours evolved in the process. On inspection the means of disposing of the effluvia from the spraying booths and the practice of drying articles in the open yard were found to be unsatisfactory in view of the close proximity of dwelling houses.

The factory had been newly established and for this reason the Town Planning Officer and the Factory Inspector were informed and a joint investigation was carried out. The premises were found not to comply with the requirements of the "Cellulose Regulations," and to have been occupied and used for spraying without the consent of the Local Authority.

Representations were then made to the firm concerned, who undertook to discontinue the spraying of cellulose paint and substitute a stove enamel process in conjunction with an infra-red stoving tunnel for quick drying, which would eliminate the discharge of offensive effluvia. Certain improvements to light and air were required by the Factory Inspector and the Council consented to the limited use of the premises for a period of three years provided no nuisance was caused. No further complaints were received.

The spraying of Cellulose is now an established practice in many garages and small factories and its use is likely to become more wide spread. The odour of "pear-drops" associated with industrial paint containing amyl-acetate can be of a powerful and persistent nature under adverse circumstances. It is therefore anticipated that further occasions for complaint will arise in the future.



In view of the difficulty of rendering this type of effluvia innocuous it appears that factories where the spraying of cellulose is carried out would be better located away from inhabited areas. The scarcity of factory accommodation in conjunction with the drive for export trade are factors which have a bearing on the present position.

One hundred and eleven visits were made during the year with respect to Factories.

### Offensive Trades.

Twenty-four visits have been paid to skin merchants and tripe boiler premises. Several Notices have been served on the latter under the Food and Drugs Act, to ensure a reasonable standard of cleanliness on otherwise satisfactory premises.

A plan for the removal of all these trades to a convenient centre adjacent to the Public Abattoir, which would conform to the principles of Town Planning and Food Hygiene, remains under consideration by the Council.

### Disinfestation.

The introduction of residual insecticides has enabled the Department to dispense with fumigation of verminous premises and effects by means of hydrogen-cyanide carried out for the corporation by contractors. D.D.T. residual spray and powder treatment has been extensively used.

Observations over a long period have proved the efficaciousness of this insecticide, which is cheaper, does not possess the dangerous characteristic of H.C.N. and treatments can be carried out by the trained staff of the Department.

During the year, experiments were carried out with many other insecticides. It was found that whilst Benzine-Hexachloride proves quite effective, the noxious smell persisted for many weeks. The miscible oil MG.045, was tested on various forms of infestation and was found very efficient and LO.44 liquid spray also, but they are not yet available in quantity.

Gammoxine smoke generators distributing Gammexane in aerosol form, were found most useful for infested areas which were not readily accessible. This compound showed a high toxicity to the bug, cockroach and silver fish.

These experiments proved that in practice, D.D.T. is the nearest approach to the ideal insecticide. It combines exceptional insecticidal properties with low toxicity to man, it has no unpleasant odour and remains active for long periods. The following table gives the number of premises and articles dealt with together with the specific infestation.

No. Premises treated for	Bug Infestation	...	...	253
"	" Flea	"	...	72
"	" Ant	"	...	15
"	" Cockroach	"	...	23
"	" Other	"	...	24
No. of Articles treated	...	...	...	809
" persons deloused	...	...	...	2

**Rehousing of displaced families.**

No. visited	...	...	...	...	...	17
No. premises treated	...	...	...	...	...	15
No. articles treated	...	...	...	...	...	98

**Common Lodging Houses.**

No. articles treated (including beds)	...	...	...	...	37
No. of rooms treated	...	...	...	...	8

**Removal of Articles for Destruction.**

No. of visits	...	...	...	...	658
No. of re-visits	...	...	...	...	270
No. of special visits	...	...	...	...	1034
Total					3335

**Contaminated Water Supplies.**

Following a complaint of unsatisfactory water supply in one road of the town, 39 houses were surveyed and all houses found to be supplied by hand pumps from shallow wells and in many instances water closets were of the obsolete long hopper pattern and not provided with the necessary flushing cisterns. Two of the houses were found to be sharing one pump from a shallow well.

These houses were situated in an area taken into the Borough by the extension of the Boundary. In every case, fluorescene was applied to the house drains to detect pollution of the wells, and in consequence it was found necessary to submit samples from each well to the Public Analyst for examination.

Each sample submitted was found unsatisfactory. A typical remark of the Analyst is as follows :—

“The analysis shows that the water in its present condition is not safe for human consumption. The chemical analysis shows the presence of large quantity of drainage from some undesirable source. This drainage has been purified by earth filtration with the result that the bacteriological condition is fairly satisfactory. Under different climatic conditions this drainage would probably reach the well unpurified, and the result would be a serious potential danger to health.

The Owners were notified of these serious sanitary defects and all necessary works to provide supply from the mains have been executed to the satisfaction of the Local Authority, *i.e.*, to provide safe drinking water from the Corporation mains, flushing cisterns and pedestal type W.C's. complete

**Refuse Collection.**

During the years of War, a general deterioration took place in the type and quality of ash receptacles in use throughout the Borough. A variety of containers, *i.e.*, tea chests, petrol drums, boxes, etc., replaced the standard bin and even old ashpits were pressed into use to the detriment of the cleansing service. A survey of all properties has been undertaken by the Cleansing Superintendent, and as a result several hundred premises were referred to this Department for service of Notice under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The amount of work involved in visiting and re-visiting such a huge number of premises is considerable, and the time which can be spent in other directions is reduced accordingly.

The adoption by the Local Authority of powers under Section 75, to provide and maintain dustbins at an annual charge would have many advantages.

Representations were made to the Ministry of Works in regard to the inadequate supply of dust-bins to the Town. Some improvement has taken place during recent months although at times much delay is caused as stocks dwindle. The Manufacturers are still unable to guarantee receptacles of standard gauge and the specification incorporated in Notices has had to be amended accordingly. For the most part, intimation notices secured the provision of new ash receptacles and Statutory action was necessary in only a few instances.

274 Informal Notices were served requiring the provision of Ash receptacles  
52 Notifications were sent to the Housing Manager.

### **RODENT CONTROL.**

The work of the Infestation Section of the Health Department during the year under review can be divided as follows :

1, General Complaints ; 2, Contracts ; 3, Survey ; 4, Treatment under Circular N.S.12 ; 5, Sewer Maintenance Treatment ; 6, Local Authority Property ; 7, Other Pests ; 8, General Remarks.

#### **Complaints.**

Individual complaints received by the Department numbered 442, and are made up as follows : Rats 285 ; Mice, 51 ; Moles, 2 ; Rabbits, 2 ; Squirrel, 1 ; Viper, 1. A number of these complaints were found to be due to a stray rat being seen or a cat or dog bringing a rat home. All complaints have to be investigated, but in the above circumstances no treatment is called for.

#### **Contracts.**

Where infestations of rats, mice or beetles are heavy or the premises liable to become re-infested, it is customary to offer our services under annual contracts. Thirty-eight of these contracts operated during the year, the value of these being £367 against cost of treatment amounting to £232.

It has been found that these contracts enable the premises to be cleared and kept clear, since regular visits are made to check the position without waiting for occupiers to notify re-infestations. Many firms have renewed their contracts year after year thus showing their satisfaction of the services rendered.

#### **Survey.**

A house-to-house survey of Cheltenham Municipal Borough and Charlton Kings U.D.C. areas has been carried out. In all 16,342 premises were surveyed, of which 525 were found to be infested by rats and 138 by mice. Notices were served on Occupiers giving them the option of dealing with the infestation themselves or calling upon the Corporation



to do so. In the former case the Pest Officer subsequently called to see that the work had been properly carried out. The majority of occupiers preferred to leave the clearance of rats from their property to the Corporation staff; 430 premises having been dealt with under block treatment.

## **N.S.12**

This circular authorised free treatment of private dwelling houses for the financial year 1946-47, but its operation in the Borough did not commence until 1st June, 1946. Since that date 453 premises have been in receipt of free treatment and 282 were charged a nominal fee. In passing, it should be mentioned that the Ministry have granted six months extension of the free treatment under the terms of this circular.

## **Sewers.**

In conjunction with block treatment of surface infestations, the sewers have received maintenance treatment. A total of 482 manholes have been dealt with of which 283 showed presence of rats with 124 giving evidence of heavy infestation. All manholes treated were originally infested so the position has improved, but whilst the old brick sewers remain, regular maintenance treatment is essential. The Ministry have agreed to make a grant for the financial year 1947-48 towards the cost of this maintenance treatment during that period.

## **Local Authority Property.**

The Infestation Section carry out Rodent Control on all Local Authority Property. The following brief notes indicate the position at danger spots.

*Abattoir*: The position here is satisfactory. The result has been obtained through constant supervision and the whole-hearted co-operation of the Abattoir Staff. The premises naturally attract rats but the general hygiene and prompt notification of any rats enables infestation to be kept to negligible proportions.

*Folly Lane Tip*: Refuse tips everywhere are recognised as the haunts of rats and in many districts are "reservoirs" from which rats spread outward to surrounding property. It is correct to state that at Folly Lane the infestation is now of a minor character. This is due to two factors: Firstly, the constant checking by the Infestation Section who deal promptly with every re-infestation as it occurs, and secondly the keen interest and assistance given by all Corporation employees at the Tip. One can hardly hope to have no rats at a refuse tip, but the position at Folly Lane is at present satisfactory. It will only remain so by constant vigilance and prompt action.

*Destructor*: Major infestation here has been reduced and kept at a "minor" level. The preparation of pig food attracts the rodents who make their buries in the bank of the Chelt and the old buildings. The infestation is persistent and not easy to control, but repeated treatments have resulted in marked improvement.

*Hayden Farm and Sewage Beds* : Many visits have been made to these with satisfactory depletion of the rat population. Here, as elsewhere, regular inspections and treatments are necessary to keep infestation under control.

*Cemetery* : Rabbits were doing much damage in the cemetery. On receipt of the complaint the trouble was dealt with by gassing since when there has been no further complaint.

#### **Other Pests.**

From the list of complaints it will be seen that the Infestation Section has dealt with a variety of other pests. This service has been greatly appreciated by the Public.

#### **General Remarks.**

*Survey and Block Treatment* : An Article was published in the Rodent Mail in August, 1946, giving details of methods adopted in Cheltenham. As a result many Sanitary Inspectors of other Boroughs have written for further information and advice.

*"King Rat."* A rat weighing 1 lb. 6½ ozs. and measuring 18½ ins. was gassed at Folly Lane Tip. The average weight of a rat is 12 ozs.

*Visits* : Approximately 21,804 visits have been made in addition to work on the sewers.

*Rats Destroyed.* : It is estimated that 2,999 rats have been exterminated in surface infestations and 6,030 in the sewers.

The Staff of the Infestation Section have carried out their work in a very satisfactory manner and in spite of a bad summer and abnormal winter the Operators have keenly executed their duties.

#### **FOODS AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.**

The number of samples submitted for analysis were 178, representing 3,017 per 1,000 of the population (Registrar General's Estimate 1945). These consisted of 124 Formal samples, of which 10 were unsatisfactory and 54 Informal samples, of which 7 were unsatisfactory.

The standard of these samples over a wide selection of foods substances shows a great improvement in quality, 8.42% being unsatisfactory compared with the 17.8% of 1945. This was most marked in the case of milk, where in 1945, the percentage non genuine was 11.95%. In 1946 it had dropped to 2.46%.

#### **Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1923-1943.**

Legal proceedings were instituted against a purveyor of milk, for bottling milk in the street, a conviction being obtained with a fine of £5 0s. 0d.



**ANNUAL REPORT 1946**  
**ANALYST RESULTS ON SAMPLES TAKEN.**

Substance	FORMAL		INFORMAL		
	Unsatisfactory	Genuine	Unsatisfactory	Genuine	Total
Milk	2	79			81
Glycerine			1	3	4
Bicarbonate of Soda				3	3
Gin		2			2
Whisky	2	1			3
Brandy		1			1
Sherry	1	2			3
Draught Beer		1			1
Vinegar	1	9			10
Beecham's Powders				1	1
Malt Extract				1	1
Glucomil				1	1
Lemon Glycerine				1	1
Hydrogen Peroxide		1			1
Vironita		2			2
Vi-Cocoa				1	1
Chocolate Cup				1	1
Gelatin		1			1
So-Taist-ee Extract				1	1
Mist. Bismuth		3		1	4
Tonic Phosphates		1			1
Ammoniated Tinct. of Quinine				1	1
Malt Chocolate Spread				1	1
Coffee				1	1
Rapid Cold Cure Tablets	1				1
Wex Grape Saline			1		1
Bronchial Tablets			1		1
Egg Sa vouree				1	1
Pure Meat Extract				1	1
Fish Paste				3	3
Dried Soup				1	1
Cake & Pudding Mixture				1	1
Cake & Bun Flour				1	1
Beef Sausage Meat		1			1
Pepper				1	1
Mustard		1		2	3
Baking Powder		1	1		2
Ginger Wine				1	1
Flavouring				1	1
Cinnamon				2	2

ANALYST RESULTS ON SAMPLES TAKEN.—*Continued.*

Substance	FORMAL		INFORMAL		
	Unsatisfactory	Genuine	Unsatisfactory	Genuine	Total
Sauce		1		1	2
Junket Rennet				1	1
Essence of Rennet				1	1
Gravy Browning		1			1
Sage and Onion Stuffing				1	1
Ground Mixed Spice				1	1
Butter		2			2
Riss Force meat		1			1
Preserved Mushrooms				1	1
Active Celery		1			1
Yellow Colouring				1	1
Orange Emulsified Flavouring				1	1
Pork Sausage	1	1			2
Sagion Force meat			1		1
Ice Cream			2	1	3
Ice Cream Powder	1				1
Pineapple Jam				1	1
Apricot Jam				1	1
Blackberry Jam				1	1
Plum Jam				2	2
Damson Jam				1	1
Raspberry Jam	1	1			2
Blackcurrant Flavour Cordial				1	1
Total	10	114	7	47	178

# ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION REGARDING SAMPLES REPORTED TO BE NOT GENUINE.

No. in Record	Date 1946	Article	Adulteration	Extent of Adulteration or Deficiency	Observations and Action Taken
671	2 Jan.	Rapid Cold Cure Tablets	Deficient in Acetanilide Camphor Sod. Bicarbonate	21.6% 3.9% 5.3%	Warning letter sent to manufacturers, who agreed that the label was ambiguous; stated that the preparation would be withdrawn from sale.
679	25 Jan.	Whisky	Water	18.3%	Proceedings taken. Defendant bound over and costs £3 7s. 0d. awarded.
683 1267	25 Jan. 15 Feb.	Whisky Milk	Water Mouse excreta B : Coli 180,000 per 100 ccs.	1.4%	Vendor kept under observation. Analyst observations passed to R.D.C. Vendor appeared before P.H.C. Warning issued.
712	25 April	Glycerine	Carbonaceous Substances Fatty acid and iron	Slight	Formal sample taken, result satisfactory.
727	23 May	Milk	Slight fat deficiency	0.3%	Vendor kept under observation.
730	23 May	Milk	Slight fat deficiency	0.2%	Vendor kept under observation.
733	30 May	Ice Cream	Poor quality fat, 1.41%		No action possible in absence of legal standard.
734	30 May	Ice Cream	Poor quality fat, 0.29%		No action possible in absence of legal standard.
737	19 June	Malt Vinegar	Deficient acetic acid	0.09%	Slight deficiency only, vendor kept under observation.

# Administrative Action Regarding Samples Reported to be not Genuine—Continued.

No. in Record	Date 1946	Article	Adulteration	Extent of Adulteration or Deficiency	Observations and Action Taken
759	12 July	Pork Sausage	Deficient Meat	4.8%	Vendor kept under observation.
768	24 July	Sparkling Grape Saline	Deficient Sod. Bicarbonate	9.4%	Letter sent to Manufacturers.
781	27 Aug.	Baking Powder	Deficient Carbon Dioxide	2.43%	Formal sample taken, proved satisfactory.
808	30 Oct.	Force Meat	Infested with Flour Mite		Formal sample taken, proved satisfactory.
819	18 Nov.	Blackberry Jam	Stalks, dead dry berries, etc.	Excessive amount of cellular matter unfit for consumption	Jam manufactured but not sold in this district. Investigations followed intimation from other Local Authority. Consignment withdrawn from dealers and reprocessed at factory.
833	11 Dec.	Bronchial Tablets	78.2% Calcium carbonate		Unsatisfactory due to large amount of calcium carbonate. Analyst did not recommend legal action.
835	11 Dec.	Ice Cream Powder	Composed almost entirely of Wheat Starch		Analyst reported a very inferior article, but in absence of a recognised standard no legal action possible.
844 846	24 Dec. 24 Dec.	British Sherry } Sparkling Wine }	Not made entirely from grapes.		Public Analyst advised against prosecution. Labelling Order not then in force. Evidence of differentiation stated to be insufficient for prosecution under the Food and Drugs Act.

**Sanitary Inspection of the District.**

The following Tables show the amount of Routine Inspection work performed by the Sanitary Inspectors.

**SUMMARY OF VISITS AND NOTICES.****General.**

The great increase in complaints relating to housing conditions was indicative not only of the acute housing shortage resulting in the occupation of unfit premises and rooms, but of the neglect of repair accruing from the war years.

The total number of complaints received was 1,490. The number of inspections made during the year was 11,064. 788 Informal Notices were served, 624 were complied with and the remainder were outstanding on December 31st.

**SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS AND  
NOTICES SERVED DURING 1946.**

TABLE 1.

**General Sanitation**

Water supply	...	...	...	109
Drainage	...	...	...	1513
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	12
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	24
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	20
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	70
Houses—Let in Lodgings	...	...	...	1
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	4
Factories	...	...	...	111
Workplaces	...	...	...	23
Outworkers	...	...	...	18
Bakehouses	...	...	...	21
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	2
Theatres and places of Entertainments	...	...	...	25
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	248
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	14
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	53
Schools	...	...	...	15
Shops	...	...	...	39
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	287
Interviews	...	...	...	749
Total				3358



TABLE II.

**Housing**

UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS			
No. of Houses inspected	...	...	978
Visits paid to above Houses	...	...	1831
UNDER THE HOUSING ACT			
No. of Houses inspected	...	...	186
Visits paid to above Houses	...	...	358
OVER CROWDING			
No. of Houses inspected	...	...	265
VERMINOUS PREMISES			
No. of Houses inspected	...	...	162
Visits paid to above Houses	...	...	52
MISCELLANEOUS HOUSING VISITS	...	...	84
Total			3916

TABLE III.

**Infectious Diseases**

Inquiries in Cases of Infectious Diseases	...	...	5
No. of Visits made	...	...	97
Visits re Disinfection	...	...	11
No. of articles steam disinfected	...	...	430
No. of Premises fumigated	...	...	60
No. of articles disinfected for Authorities	...	...	447
outside Borough area	...	...	447
No. of articles disinfected for private requests	...	...	1152
(not infectious)	...	...	7
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	7
Total			2209

TABLE IV.

**Inspection of Meat****Milk and Food Inspection**

INSPECTION OF MEAT			
Visits to Slaughter Houses	...	...	121
Visits to Shops and Stalls	...	...	8
Visits to other Premises	...	...	17
Total Meat Inspection Visits	...	...	21
VISITS TO :—			
Butchers	...	...	52
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	117
Grocers	...	...	338
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	27
Cowsheds	...	...	27
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	61
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	24
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	100
Market Stalls	...	...	42
Restaurants	...	...	120
Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts	...	...	16

## VISITS IN CONNECTION WITH SAMPLING

Milk-Bacteriological	...	...	5
Food and Drug Samples	...	...	250
MISCELLANEOUS FOOD VISITS		...	62
	Total	...	1408
TOTALS OF TABLES 1, 2, 3, 4		...	10891

**Food Preparation Premises**

The applications of all persons requesting catering licences from the Food Office are passed to this Department and the premises are investigated. A report on the condition and structure is sent to the Food Executive Officer and licences are only issued in respect of premises which satisfy the requirements of the Food and Drugs Acts. Special attention has been paid to the standard of cleanliness of all Food preparation establishments, particularly cafes, hotel kitchens and ice-cream shops, subject to the provisions of Section 13 and 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Investigations have revealed that many of these premises are of insufficient size to enable them to meet the demands of their residents or shoppers. Many Owners have expressed their willingness to reconstruct the food preparation premises, but they have been unable to do so due to the great shortage of building materials and other necessary plant.

## SUMMARY FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1946.

## Meat and other Foods surrendered and Destroyed as Unfit.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
<b>Miscellaneous Tinned Foods</b>				
Meat ... ..	1	14	1	18
Fish ' ... ..		2	0	9
Vegetables ... ..	3	2	3	5
Milk ... ..		4	3	21
Meat and Vegetables ... ..			2	12
Fruit ... ..		1	1	4
Jam ... ..		2	2	21
Soup ... ..			1	6
Pudding Mixture ... ..		2	1	11
Pickles ... ..				25
Coffee ... ..				2
Total ...	5	11	2	22
<b>Flour and Cereals</b>				
Cereal Foods ... ..		1	0	22
Bread . ... ..			1	7
Confectionery ... ..				19
Biscuits ... ..			2	4
Flour ... ..			1	13
Barley ... ..		1	2	1
Egg Substitute ... ..				10
Total ...		4	0	20
<b>Dried Fruits and Vegetables</b>				
Dried Fruits ... ..		9	1	26
Fresh Vegetables ... ..		2	2	20
Total ...		12	0	18
<b>General</b>				
Imported Meat ... ..		1	1	1
English Meat ... ..			2	19
Bacon ... ..			3	24
Fish, fresh ... ..	3	10	2	20
Fish, preserved ... ..	1	11	3	15
Eggs ... ..		1	2	7
Cheese ... ..		1	2	21
Butter ... ..		1	3	12
Sugar ... ..		1	0	0
Margarine ... ..			2	0
Sausages ... ..		1	1	1
Shell Fish ... ..			1	2
Fish Cakes ... ..				14
Condiments ... ..			1	5
Total ...	5	14	0	1
GRAND TOTAL ...	12	2	0	5

### Public Abattoir and Slaughterhouse.

All slaughtering carried out in the Borough has been done at the Public Abattoir. Private slaughterhouses were not in use during the year. This concentrating of slaughtering for a wide area round the Borough has meant that not only has the Abattoir and equipment been worked to a capacity, but that a full time inspectorate staff has had to be maintained. It has not been possible to carry out maintenance and repairs urgently required for the past seven years. Plans have been proposed for the centralising of by-products adjacent to the Abattoir, but so far the Ministry of Food have not yet made known their policy with regard to the future of centralised slaughtering.

### Meat Distribution.

Regular inspections were made of the vehicles engaged on meat distribution from the Abattoir to the butchers shops and food preparation premises carried out by the Ministry of Transport.

Representations were made regarding the insanitary conditions of the vehicles employed in this type of work, and it was recommended that properly designed, totally enclosed meat transport vehicles be obtained.

This representation resulted in a great improvement in the handling of the meat and essential modification of the vehicles concerned.

### Carcases inspected and General Report thereon, 1946. Cheltenham Abattoir 3542.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
No. Killed ...	2854	1248	7431	17058	868	29459
No. Inspected ...	2854	1248	7431	17058	868	29459
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</b> ...						
Whole Carcases ...	8	18	40	35	2	103
Some part or Organ condemned	416	605	39	1163	297	2520
Percentage affected ...	14.85	49.92	1.06	7.02	34.44	8.90
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>						
Whole carcasses ...	15	40	2	—	2	59
Some part or Organ condemned	198	382	1	—	54	635
Percentage affected ...	7.46	33.81	0.04	—	6.45	2.35
Totals ...	637	1045	82	1198	355	3317
Percentage on Totals ...	22.31	83.73	1.10	7.02	40.89	11.25

Carcases Condemned as Totally unfit for Human Food, 1946.

Species	T.B.	Sapraemia	Joint Ill. Pyæmia	Mammitis	Inflam- mation	Jaundice	Mori- bund	Im- maturity	Dropsy & Emancia- tion	Injury	Totals
Cows	40	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	12	1	58
Heifers	12	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	18
Bulls	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Steer	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	4
Calves	2	—	20	—	3	1	5	9	1	1	42
Sheep	—	1	—	—	3	4	5	—	21	1	35
Pigs	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	4
Total	59	4	20	2	10	5	12	9	38	3	162



## Total Weight of Meat and Offal condemned, 1946.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
					Total			
Beef in Carcase	18	12	3	24	21	2	—	21
Beef not in Carcase	2	9	0	25				
Mutton in Carcase	—	16	3	2				
Mutton not in Carcase	—	2	2	13				
					19	1	15	
Veal in Carcase	—	17	0	2				
Veal not in Carcase	—	—	3	9				
Pork in Carcase	—	10	1	25	17	3	11	
Pork not in Carcase	—	6	3	7				
Viscera					28	11	2	23
				Total	52	8	1	18



